

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

The following list of claims replaces all previous lists, and includes the status of all claims in the application:

1. Cancelled

2. (new) A method for reducing bandwidth utilization in a system for distributing digital continuous media information from one or more servers, where users of the system are connected to a shared continuous media buffer, comprising the steps of:

a first user requesting a continuous media stream from a server;

the server periodically sending packets to the first user representing portions of the media stream;

the shared continuous media buffer capturing the encoded packets sent by the server, and redistributing them to the first user;

a second user requesting the continuous media stream from the server, wherein the request is made at a time when the continuous media buffer no longer retains first packets from the stream, representing a missed portion of the stream;

sending a burst of packets to the second user representing the missed portion of the stream, wherein the second user catches up to the buffer; and

distributing the encoded packets representing the stream from the shared buffer after the second user catches up to the shared buffer.

3. (new) A method for reducing bandwidth utilization in a distributed communication system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a series of data packets representing a data stream to a first local client;

retaining a most recent plurality of packets in a shared buffer;

a second local client requesting the data stream, wherein initial packets from the data stream are no longer retained in the shared buffer;

providing a high speed burst of data packets to the second local client, wherein the burst of data packets includes those initial data packets no longer retained in the shared buffer; and

transmitting remaining data packets from the stream from the shared buffer.

4. (new) The method of Claim 3, wherein the data stream has a defined beginning, and wherein the second local client requests the data stream from the defined beginning.

5. (new) The method of Claim 3, wherein the data stream has a defined beginning, and wherein the second local client requests the data stream from a point other than the defined beginning.